

ārati

jay śiva ōnkārā, ōṃ jay śiva ōnkārā (bōle hara śiva ōnkārā)

brahmā viśnu sadā śiva, ardhāngī dhārā

Glory to you, O Shiva! Glory to you, O Omkaara! May Brahma, Vishnu and the assembly of other Gods including the great Lord Shiva, relieve me of my afflictions!

ĕkā-nana chatu-rānana, panchā-nana rājai

han-sānana garuḍā-sana, vruśa-vāhana sājē

Being the Absolute, True being, Consciousness and Bliss, you play the roles of all the three Gods - Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. As Vishnu, you have but one face, as Brahma four and as Shiva five. They gladden the sight of all who behold them. As Brahma you prefer the back of the swan for your seat, as Vishnu you like to ensconce yourself on the back of Garuda (A large mythological eagle - like bird believed to be the vehicle of Lord Vishnu) and as Shiva you make the sacred bull your conveyance; all these stand ready. O Great Lord, pray rid me of my afflictions!

dō bhuja chār chatur-buja, dasa bhuja ati sōhē

tēnō rūp nirakathā, tribhu-van jana mōhai

As Brahma, you possess two arms, as Vishnu four and as Shiva (Dashabaahu) ten, all of which look matchlessly lovely. No sooner do the inhabitants of the three spheres behold you than they are all enchanted. O great Lord Omkaara, pray rid me of my afflictions

akśa-mālā bana-mālā, ruḍa-mālā dhārī

chaṇḍana mruga-mada sōhai, bhāle śaśi-dhārī

You are, O great Lord Omkaara, wearing a garland of Rudraaksha, another of forest flowers the third of skulls; your forehead, glistening in the moonlight which it holds, is smeared with sandal-paste and musk. Pray rid me of my afflictions.

śvētāmbara pītāmbara, bāghāmbara aṅgē

sanakā-dika garuḍā-dika, būtā-dika saṅgē

O great Lord Omkaara, your body is attired in white and yellow silken clothes and in tiger skin, while in your company are troops of goblins, gods like Brahma and divine seers like Sanaka. Pray rid me of my afflictions.

kar kē madhya kaṇḍala, chakra trisula dhartā

jaga-kartā jaga-bhartā, jaga-pālana kartā

O great Lord Omkaara, you hold akamandalu (the mendicants water-jar) in one of your hands and in the another a trident, you bring joy to all, destroy all distress and sustain the whole world. May you rid me of all my afflictions!

brahmā viśnu sadā-śiva, jā-naṭ avi-vēkā

praṇa-vāksara kē madhyē, yē tēnō ē-kā

The ignorant (unwise and stupid) know Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva as three individual gods, but they are all indistinguishably fused into a single mystic syllable 'OM'. Pray rid me of my afflictions.

kāśī mē viśvanātha virā-jata, naṇḍi brahma-chārī

nita ati bhōga lagā-vata, mahimā ati bhārī

triguṇa śiv-jīkī āratī, jō kōi nara gāvē (prēm sahiṭ gāvē)

kahata śivā-nanda swāmi, mana-vāṇchit phal pāvē

Says Swami Shivananda, "He who recites this Arti to the Lord of the three gunas, sattva, rajas and tamas - attains fulfillment of his heart's desire". O great Lord Omkaara, may you rid me of my afflictions